

## ARTICLE II. - PARADES □□□□□□□□

### DIVISION 1. - GENERALLY □□□□□□□□

- Sec. 19-26. - Applicability. □□□□□□□□ Except as otherwise stated herein, the provisions of this article shall apply to all parades conducted in Terrebonne Parish. □(Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)□□
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- Sec. 19-27. - Definitions. □□□□□□□□ For the purpose of this article, the following terms are defined: □*Floats* are vehicles with at least four (4) wheels, with or without brakes or an engine for their own propulsion upon which are constructed artistic designs and which carry a rider or riders thereon. □*Marchers* are any persons over the age of seventeen (17) years who are members of a marching group, or members of an organized marching school band, subject to the restrictions set forth in [section 19-49](#). □*Marching clubs* are any groups which desire to and are organized for the purpose of parading in costume during the carnival season. □*Organization* is a non-profit corporation which conducts a parade within the parish, and which uses a number of floats in its parade. □*Reviewing stands* are any vehicles, flatbeds, bleachers, scaffolding or other structure or appurtenance placed along the parade route in order that the occupants of such reviewing stands may review the parades. □*Trucks* (also referred to as "property trucks") are normal commercial semi-trailers and/or flat-bed trucks which are decorated and upon which riders can be carried. □(Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)□□
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- Sec. 19-28. - Purpose. □□□□□□□□ The regulations contained in this article are ordained and required for the public health, safety, morals, good order, convenience, and general welfare of the community. It is the intention of this article to establish reasonable limits to the demand for police, fire, sanitation and other parish services and to maintain the great tradition of the carnival season without reasonably inconveniencing the general public. □(Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)□□
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- Sec. 19-29. - Carnival parade season designated. □□□□□□□□ The official carnival (Mardi Gras) parade season, as used in this article, is designated as that period beginning with the second Friday before Mardi Gras (twelve (12) days) and continuing through Mardi Gras Day, both inclusive. No carnival (Mardi Gras) parade may be staged other than during the official carnival

season. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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- **Sec. 19-30. - Parade routes.** All parade routes within the urban services district shall be approved by the chief of police. All parade routes for the rural area of the parish shall be approved by the sheriff. When the parade route extends to both the urban services district and the rural area of the parish, the parade route shall be approved by the chief of police and the sheriff. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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- **Sec. 19-31. - Mardi Gras parade safety committee.** (a) A Mardi Gras parade safety committee is hereby established and shall consist of the Sheriff of Terrebonne Parish, the Houma Police Chief, the Houma Fire Chief, a designee of the parish president, one (1) member of the Terrebonne Parish Council, and one (1) member representing the membership of each carnival organization. The total number of members shall be fourteen (14). The organization representatives shall be selected from the memberships of those organizations enumerated in [section 19-78\(c\)\(1\)](#), and shall be selected in a manner set forth by those organizations. (b) The committee shall have the authority, upon majority consensus, to promulgate rules and regulations and may impose sanctions upon the organization, float and/or individual for violating those rules. (c) Failure to comply with the rules and/or sanctions may result in the exclusion of the rider, float, or organization, found to be in violation. Expulsion of the sanctioned party will suffice in lieu of payment of the fine. (d) All fines shall be remitted to the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and deposited in an account to be used for the purpose of parade public safety (purchase of barricades, portable toilets, etc). The committee shall, upon majority vote, authorize the expenditure of these funds. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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- **Secs. 19-32—19-45. - Reserved.**

- **DIVISION 2. - PARADE CHARACTERISTICS**

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- **Sec. 19-46. - Generally.** (a) No parade shall be of a commercial nature. (b) No advertising of any kind shall be displayed or used in any parade except as provided by [section 19-46\(c\)](#). (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the following vehicles may contain commercial decorations: (1) Property trucks may identify the designer and/or builder of

the floats in the parade. (2) Convertible automobiles, trucks, tractors, and tractors being used to pull floats or carry designated organization officials, grand marshals, guest celebrities, maids, dukes or lieutenants may identify both the vehicle and donor providing the vehicles. (d) No participants in any parade shall display in any manner in the parade any endorsements of candidates for elective public office, nor any endorsements of any issues to be voted upon in an election. However, nothing contained in this provision shall be construed to prohibit the humorous caricature of social events and issues. (e) No organization or person staging a parade shall prior thereto advertise in a public manner for members to participate in the parade, and anyone doing so may have the permit for the parade revoked by action of the parish council in accordance with this article. The use of the United States mail is specifically exempted from this provision. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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- Sec. 19-47. - Floats. (a) Floats shall not be less than twenty (20) feet in length or more than sixty (60) feet in length, and shall not be more than fifteen (15) feet in width or less than nine (9) feet in width, and not be more than eighteen (18) feet high, inclusive of animation, measured from the street level. All floats shall contain sanitary facilities sufficient to take care of the number of riders for which the float is designed to be used. If the floats exceed the dimensions provided for herein, the organization's permit may be revoked unless the dimensions specified are complied with as provided herein, or the floats in violation will be removed from the parade. (b) Auxiliary floats, or those that are of a smaller size than specified above, will be permitted provided that there shall be no more than one (1) auxiliary float for each regular float as provided herein. (c) Auxiliary floats shall be compatible in their color, design and overall composition with the primary manner in which Mardi Gras or carnival floats have been in the past. Each float or tractor or vehicle pulling the float shall have at least two (2) ten-pound or four (4) five-pound Underwriters' ABC dry chemical fire extinguishers and at least one (1) ladder for exiting the floats and a safety chain between it and the float. If generators are used, one (1) five-pound Underwriters' ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher must be within six (6) feet of the generator. (d) Self-propelled floats shall comply with the state brake text provisions for an equivalent class and weight for motor vehicles and shall each have affixed thereto a current motor vehicle inspection certificate issued by the state. Self-propelled floats shall also contain double the amount of fire extinguishers as provided for in [section 19-47\(c\)](#). Additionally, self-propelled floats shall comply with such safety standards and criteria established for that class of floats that may be developed and promulgated by the parish. Each self-propelled float shall be designed to allow

the driver thereof peripheral vision of at least one hundred eighty (180) degrees. (e) All floats in night parades shall be well illuminated. (f) All tractor, float and truck drivers shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and have a valid driver's license. Drivers will not be allowed to throw, toss or wear any type of favor or display any type of favor from vehicles in the parade in which they are pulling or driving. Drivers are not allowed to drink alcoholic beverages twelve (12) hours prior to or during the parades. Drivers may not be under the influence of alcohol, or any abused or illegal dangerous substance. Any police officer with jurisdiction and with reasonable suspicion, who has been trained in the detection of impairment by alcohol and/or illegal or abused dangerous substances, may conduct field sobriety tests on any driver prior to, or during any parade. Refusal to submit to the test(s) shall subject the driver and float to immediate removal from the parade. (g) All attachments and decorations to the floats shall be securely fastened or attached to the float and sharp, pointed or cornered objects on the exterior or interior of the float will not be permitted. (h) All floats having riders who throw beads, food, toys or any objects of any kind whatsoever, shall be equipped with sufficient safety belt eye bolts, cables or other safety devices securely fastened to the body or framework of the float, sufficient in number to accommodate all riders on the float, and of sufficient strength to support the weight of each individual float rider. (1) Each individual float rider shall wear a safety belt or harness which shall be attached to the safety device installed on the float under this subsection. (2) In addition to any other penalties specified in this article, violation of this subsection shall subject the offending float rider to removal from the float. (i) All floats shall, at the direction of the Mardi Gras parade safety committee, submit to inspection for the purpose of setting restrictions to the weight of the floats. The purpose of the inspection is not to set "legal" weight limits, but to identify safe and reasonable limits in the interest of public safety. Parade organizations are responsible to ensure the safety of their riders and floats. All floats must have clearly posted weight limits in or on the float and may not exceed the maximum weight rating for the float, fully loaded, including passengers. Floats that have not been directed by the Mardi Gras parade safety committee to submit to inspection are exempt from the posting requirements set forth in this section. (j) All floats shall have two (2) ladders to permit riders easy access to and exit from all areas of a float. (k) All floats shall have a "no smoking" sign securely attached and plainly visible to all occupants of the float. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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- Sec. 19-48. - Trucks. (a) No truck shall be more than thirteen (13) feet, six (6) inches high, or wider than ten (10) feet. Each truck shall be

equipped with such safety equipment as is required by state law and shall be no more than sixty (60) feet in length, including the tractor. (b) The truck shall contain sanitary facilities sufficient to take care of the number of riders for which the truck is designed to be used. (c) All decorations and attachments to the trucks shall be securely fastened or attached to the truck, and sharp, pointed, or cornered objects on the exterior or interior of the truck will not be permitted. (d) Trucks shall not display any advertising except organization identification. (e) The ends of each unit of a tandem float shall be completely enclosed. (f) Each truck float must have one (1) ten-pound or two (2) five-pound Underwriters' ABC dry chemical fire extinguishers. (g) All trucks shall have a "no smoking" sign securely attached and plainly visible to all occupants of the float. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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• Sec. 19-49. - Bands, drill units, etc. Any marching band, marching group, marching club, mounted unit or other marching unit that contains at least one (1) person under the age of eighteen (18) shall provide a minimum of one (1) adult chaperon per every twenty-five (25) participants, regardless of age. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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• Sec. 19-50. - Horse groups. Each horse group with written authorization by an organization and approved by the chief of police and/or sheriff to parade in any parade shall have, at its expense, at least one (1) person for each ten (10) horses at the rear of the horse group with an approved barrel-type container to pick up all droppings. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06) Cross reference— Animals, [Ch. 5](#).

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• Sec. 19-51. - Attire and characterization. (a) Maskers on floats, in automobiles, on horseback, or in any other vehicle in the parade and all marching club members shall be decently attired, and no sexually indecent dress or characterization shall be allowed. Costumes and masks shall be approved by the Mardi Gras committee and shall be worn during the entire parade. (b) No person shall be allowed to participate in a parade if they are intoxicated. Notwithstanding the provisions of [section 19-207\(3\)](#), any police officer with jurisdiction and who has been trained in the detection of impairment by alcohol and/or illegal or abused dangerous substances, may remove any rider from any float upon reasonable suspicion that the float rider is intoxicated. (c) All parade participants are prohibited from conducting themselves in a vulgar or indecent manner or conduct that would be shocking or offensive to the general public. (d) No masked float rider shall ride as a

masker in public view on a float or auxiliary float unless he is constantly costumed and masked so as to disguise his facial characteristics. This provision does not apply to the king, queen, captain, maids, dukes, pages and other attendants of the organization, to children's parade organizations, special guest celebrities or special guest celebrity groups of the organization in question. (e) In addition to the penalties hereinafter set out, any person violating this provision shall be subject to immediate arrest. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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- Sec. 19-52. - Throws. (a) Generally. All organizations are prohibited from throwing any object from the floats other than beads, doubloons, candy, or other traditionally recognized trinkets, provided however that an organization may throw other food items, if approved by the chief of police and/or the sheriff. The quantity and types of throws shall be approved by the Mardi Gras parade safety committee prior to being loaded onto the floats. (1) Riders or maskers are prohibited from tossing throws or favors to the rear and/or front of their floats or trucks and in the parade formation and disbanding areas. (2) No parade participant shall toss throws which contain sharp points including, but not limited to spears, or plastic, paper or silk flowers with pointed wire stems. (3) No parade participant shall throw, thrust, or otherwise cause to be propelled any object, including throws, or any liquid or other substance or instrumentality, which, by the manner and/or velocity in which it is thrown, could foreseeably produce bodily injury or extreme physical pain. (4) No parade participant other than the members of the organization and its special guest celebrities shall toss or hand out throws during the parade without first obtaining the written permission and approval of throws from that organization. (5) No person marching or riding in a military band or riding in a news media vehicle shall toss, hand out or otherwise distribute doubloons, trinkets or other throws. In addition to any other penalties specified in this article, violation(s) of this subsection shall subject the military band and/or news media vehicle to immediate removal from the parade. (6) No parade participant shall discard any debris, trash or packaging along the parade route. (b) Certain types of throws prohibited. (1) No parade participant shall pour, toss, hand out or otherwise distribute any alcoholic, noxious or offensive substance. (2) No parade participant shall toss, hand out, or in any manner distribute doubloons, trinkets or other throws which would be redeemable for, or entitle the bearer to discounts of the price for food or merchandise or admission to any event, or items redeemable for monetary value, or which displays any commercial or political message. (3) Throws or confetti cannons containing Mylar® are prohibited. (c) In

addition to any penalties specified in this article, a violation of this section shall subject all throws of the offender to immediate seizure for the duration of the parade. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

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- Sec. 19-53. - Riders. (a) Smoking is prohibited on all floats and trucks while parading in Terrebonne Parish. (b) Any organization permitting a person under the age of eighteen (18) to participate or ride on the float while parading is prohibited from having any alcoholic beverage on the float or the vehicle pulling the float. (c) The parade captain from each organization is required to supply the sheriff or chief of police a list of all riders and their positions on their respective floats at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled parade date. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)
- Sec. 19-54. - Authorization to enforce and penalties. (a) A designee of the parish president shall be authorized to inspect and remove any float found to be in violation of sections [19-46](#) through [19-53](#). (b) In addition to the parish president's designee, any law enforcement agency (Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office and Houma Police Department) or fire department with jurisdiction in any part of the approved parade route is authorized to inspect and remove any float found in violation of sections [19-46](#) through [19-53](#). (c) Any float removed for violating this section may be reinstated if put in compliance prior to the start of the parade. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)
- Sec. 19-55. - Unauthorized persons or vehicles. (a) Any group or person marching in or riding in any type of vehicle which has not been duly authorized by the parading organization and who is in any manner interfering with the orderly conduct of the parade shall be subject to immediate arrest, and any vehicle or animal accompanying them may be seized and impounded by the chief of police, police officer, the sheriff, sheriff's deputies, or auxiliary deputies. (b) All vending carts, wagons and vehicles and the sale of any food or novelty item by mobile vending shall be prohibited on the parade route beginning two (2) hours before the scheduled beginning of the parade until after the completion of the entire parade. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)
- Sec. 19-56. - Elevating-type vehicles prohibited along parade routes; removal of reviewing stands; permits. (a) The unofficial presence of "cherry pickers" or other elevating-type vehicles shall be

prohibited along the parade route. (b) All reviewing stands placed along the parade routes shall be removed within ten (10) days after the last parade of the season. (c) Any person who desires to construct a reviewing stand along any parade route must apply for a permit from the parish. Each applicant for such permit shall indicate the name of the applicant, the type of reviewing stand, and the proposed time the applicant desires to construct or place the reviewing stand along the parade route; which proposed time, in any event, shall not be more than thirty (30) days from the commencement of the parade or, for the carnival season, from the commencement of the first parade of the carnival season. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

- Sec. 19-57. - Blocking parade route. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person in charge of a vehicle, horse or vending contrivance to personally park, stop, loiter or stand in such a manner as to obstruct, impede or inhibit the passage of any parade on the line of route from curb to curb, or to obstruct, impede or inhibit the passage of traffic on any intersection or adjacent street to the parade route. (b) On Mardi Gras day and on the Sunday prior to Mardi Gras, temporary "No Parking" zones shall be designated in the Montegut community as enumerated on Exhibit A [attached to Ord. No. 5368] so as to better protect the safety and welfare of parade participants and viewers. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)
- Sec. 19-58. - Violations generally. If any organization shall be guilty of repeated willful violations of any of the provisions of this article, its permit for the following and subsequent years may be revoked by the council after a public hearing, and it or any individual who intentionally violates any of the provisions of this article may also be punished as provided. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)
- Sec. 19-59. - Individual penalties. Any person who violates the provisions of this division shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment in the parish jail for thirty (30) days, or both, at the discretion of the judge (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)
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- Sec. 19-60. - Applicability of division. The provisions of this division shall apply to all parades conducted in the parish, whether held during the carnival season or at some other time. (Ord. No. 7120, § II, 5-10-06)

- Secs. 19-61—19-75. - Reserved. □□□□□□□□